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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 23 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 136, No. 23

Last week, members of the Rotary Club of Belleville gathered at the Victory Park Gazebo to weed the beds and plant flowers for the summer season.

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THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 23

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will display the works of painter Tiera Knaff from through June 28. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 74, No. 23

Water meter replacements near the intersections of Michigan Avenue and Inkster Road may cause the dislodging or stirring up of rust debris in household water.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 210, No. 23

After a one-year hiatus, the 2021 Arts and Acts Festival, presented by the Northville Art House, will return June 18 - 20 with three art fairs.

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Plymouth Municipal Services Director Chris Porman has taken on additional duties in his new role as assistant city manager/ director of municipal services.

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN
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The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce named Jazmine Danci as the new executive director of the organization.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE
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Students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools will have in-person classes five days a week beginning in August.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 23

In light of the easing of the health precautions, Westland will host several community events during the summer months following the administration of more than 15,000 vaccinations.

See page 6.

Child care home license suspended by state

The license of the Macfarlane group child care home in Romulus has been suspended by the state following allegations of abuse and violence.

Misconduct at the home was alleged with the submission of a recording of the home care staff verbally and physically abusing children in their care. Staff members allegedly beat the children using a fly swatter and back scratcher. Staff members were also recorded using profanity, threatening violence against the children and using other, prohibited, forms of discipline.

The home, operated by Shelley Macfarlane, is located in the 9200 block of Washington near Wick and Wayne roads in Romulus. The facility has been licensed by the state to care for 12 children since 2000.

> *"Misconduct at the home was alleged with the submission of a recording of the home care staff verbally and physically abusing children in their care.*

Under a state order issued last Wednesday, Macfarlane is prohibited from operating a group child care home at any location, unable to accept children for care and required to inform all parents of children in her care her license has been suspended and she can no longer provide child care.

State officials began an investigation May 13 following a complaint about the treatment of children in care at Macfarlane's facility. According to that report, adult staff members were recorded screaming profanities at a child. A teacher of virtual school classes attended by children at the center told investigators that she heard staff members yelling and cursing the children. She said she heard a staff member tell a child, "I'm going to take your diaper off and beat your —."

The seven children in care at the facility told investigators from the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) that they were frequently hit in the back of the head with a fly swatter or backscratcher or sprayed with hot or cold water by caretakers.

"It was critical to take emergency action to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the children at the Macfarlane group child care home," read a release from LARA and the Child Care Licensing Bureau.

Other segments of the recorded incidents of abuse included an adult telling a child, "It doesn't matter, sit your [redacted] down, why would you sit there, sit down, get back here and shut the [redacted] up. I don't wanna hear a word out of either one of you, I'm going to bust you in the mouth."

In another incident recorded at Macfarlane, children can be heard arguing and crying when a

See **Abuse,** page 2

Out of this world

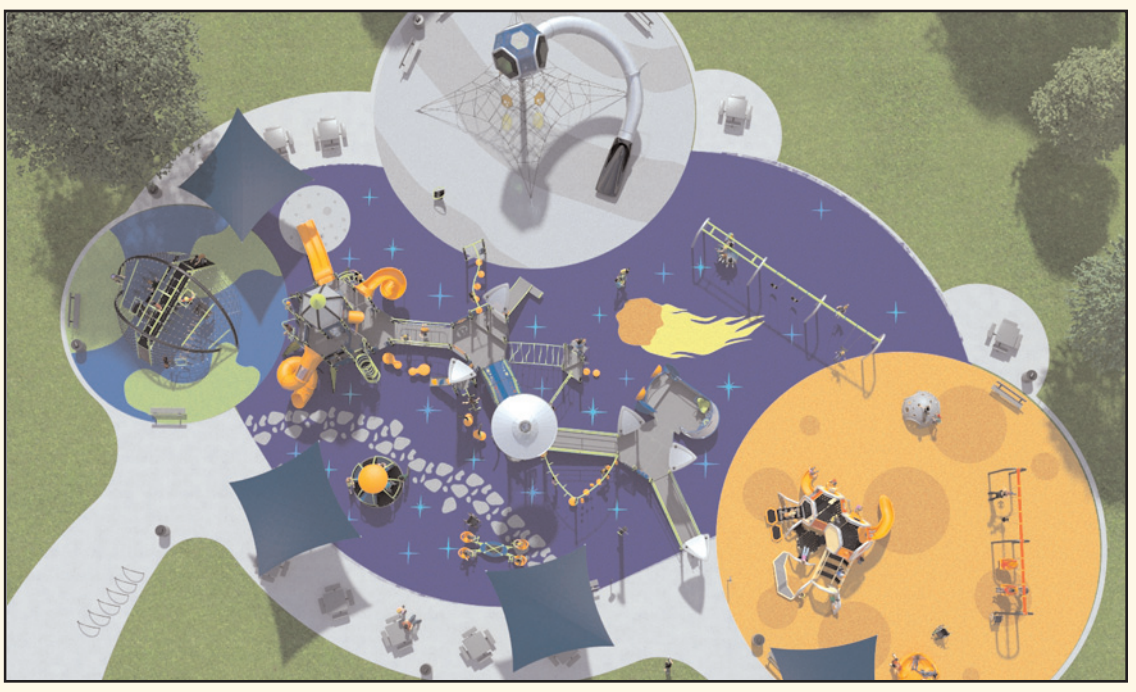
Metroparks planning new space-themed playground

Lower Huron Metropark will join the 'space race' this year with the opening of a unique new $1.3 million playground.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks is moving forward on plans to develop the space-themed playground at Lower Huron Metropark following multiple community surveys and stakeholder input. Officials said construction at the park, located on Huron River Drive in Belleville, is expected to begin this summer and wrap up with a grand opening by the end of the year.

"The Metroparks always strive to meet community needs and provide area residents and visitors with first-rate outdoor recreation spaces and activities," said Metroparks Director Amy McMillan. "We couldn't be more appreciative of the feedback and ideas received, and are excited to launch this unique play experience to help spark imaginations and serve as a destination playground."

McMillan said the design is a combination of creativity, accessibility, and offering something that did not already exist in the general vicinity. Planning for the new play space began this past November. Online surveys and stakeholder conversations took place with numerous individuals and organizations like the Detroit Association of Black Organizations (DABO) and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. From there, the Woods Creek area within the park was selected due to its visibility from the main park road, abundant parking and general openness, she said.



An artist rendering of plans for the new $1.3 million space themed playground at Lower Huron Metropark.

The playground is one of many efforts that the Metroparks are making to improve recreational opportunities across the 13 parks in the system, she added. Key features include a geometric playscape designed to reflect the solar system and a new Hedra tower slide, believed to be the first of its kind in Michigan. Playground consultant, Penchura, along with Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc., will lead the construction, installation and development officials said in a prepared statement.

The new playground is set to break ground this summer and be completed by the end of 2021. To learn more, view site renderings and stay up to date with project developments, visit www.metroparks.com/projects.

Mayoral candidate's name removed from Westland ballot

Westland voters will have one less choice in the upcoming primary election for mayor as election commission officials have ordered the name of William Asper removed from the ballot based on his non-residency in the city.

William Asper

Allegations regarding Asper's residency were raised by members of a Facebook group called Women Against William Asper for Mayor maintained by local resident Jessica Grevenstuk. The group shared screenshots of comments made on Asper's Facebook page in 2014 suggesting that a 7-year-old child belonged in special education classes and that the mother of the child could have intelligent offspring if he fathered them. Posts on the page also suggested that the child's good grades in school were based on her performing sexual favors for teachers.

Asper, 37, who is currently on probation after being convicted of aggravated stalking, claims that entire charge was based on the complainant filing a false police report and that the inappropriate Facebook posts were not his, but that his account had been hacked.

"He doesn't qualify for mayor; he doesn't live in Westland," Grevenstuk said. "He lives in Canton, but owns about 18 properties in Westland that are all vacant, and that was the sticking point to getting him off of the ballot. He's been an Internet troll for over six years, but claimed he was hacked."

During the election committee hearing, Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc stated that his office had received a voter registration request and Asper's application to seek office on Feb. 23, but when a voter card was mailed to the address Asper provided, it was returned as "undeliverable - vacant." LeBlanc said his office then mailed a proof of the ballot that ensures names are correctly printed correctly to the same address. That correspondence was also returned as "undeliverable - vacant," LeBlanc said.

The United States Postal Service also reportedly confirmed that it has a flag on the address as a vacant property. The office of the Westland assessor said that the building has had no certificate of occupancy since 2018 and the water department confirmed that the water has not been on at that address since last June. Asper had also stated in a recent court appearance that he resides at the Westland address but that his mailing address is in Canton.

The clerk and city attorney determined that Asper is not eligible to be on the ballot and the commission members unanimously voted to remove his name from the ballot.

Inkster - Romulus

Chamber names new director

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce named Jazmine Danci as the new executive director of the organization.

Danci began her new position May 24. The chamber had previously been without an executive director since last summer.

"We have over 100 members to serve and a rigorous set of goals," said Jeff Lowrey, chamber board president and owner of Cabling and More, a local Romulus business. "Jazmine brings a wealth of experience in public relations and communication skills to this position. We are excited to see what we can achieve with her on board."

> *Jazmine brings a wealth of experience in public relations and communication skills to this position.*

Danci worked for the City of Romulus in various roles since 2013, most recently as the director of community development. In that job, she oversaw the economic development efforts of the community and served as the Public Information Officer among other duties. She resigned from the position in November following her maternity leave after the birth of her daughter in August. Danci also holds bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental sustainability and is a lifelong Romulus resident.

"I worked extensively to recruit and retain businesses for the city. I am excited for the opportunity to help compliment those processes here with our board and members of the chamber for the good of the whole community," Danci said.

The Greater Romulus Chamber aims to build and strengthen the local economy by providing networking opportunities and promotions for their members, according to the organization mission statement. To learn more about the chamber, visit website www.romuluschamber.org, call (734)893-0694, or follow them on Facebook @RomulusChamber.

Jazmine Danci

Water main repairs could affect Inkster residents

Last week, a crew from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) 11 performed water meter replacements near the intersections of Michigan Avenue (US -12), west of Inkster Road in Inkster.

When routine work, such as a meter replacement is done, the water utility crew opens and closes valves which may cause pressure changes or flow reversals in a water main near the areas specified. This may cause the dislodging or stirring up of rust debris that can build up over time and float freely during maintenance activities.

When this happens, it may cause cold water to become discolored, rusty, yellow or cloudy.

Residents experiencing rusty water due to water main work activity should not use the water for cooking or drinking; use an alternative source of water during the time the water is rusty or discolored, officials said.

The use of dishwashers, laundry, showers or a baths, or other activities using hot water are not advised until the cold water in the home runs clear, as this will help prevent the rusty, discolored water from entering the residential hot water tank. If that happens, the hot water tank should be flushed to rid it of the rusty water.

Residents should check their cold water for discoloration by turning on a cold water tap for a few minutes every hour and then fill a white cup with water and look to see if it is still discolored.

If the water is still discolored repeat this process every hour until it runs clear. It may take between one and eight hours for water to return to normal. Once the water is clear, turn on all the cold water taps in the home for at least five minutes.

When the cold water runs clear, normal use for cooking, drinking, laundry and other uses can continue safety.

Residents should contact the Inkster Water Department if the rusty water persists.

If the hot water in the home is used during the time the cold water was discolored, it will be necessary to flush the tank for safety. Instructions are provided at https://www.wikihow.com/Flush-a-Water-Heater.

If laundry is stained from rusty or discolored water, a rust remover product can be used if the laundry was not dried using heat from a dryer. Residents can try the techniques at https://home.howstuffworks.com/how-to-remove-rust-stains.For more information or questions, contact the Inkster Department of Public Services at (313) 563-9774.

Abuse

FROM PAGE 1

staff member says, "Enough, what are you crying about?" One of the children responds, "You hurt me." The employee then responds, "Who hurt you?" and the child says, "You." The staff member then says, "Right, and you going to cry five minutes later, shut up, dry it up, shut up."

Officials from the licensing bureau said that while Macfarlane's license was initially suspended, they plan to permanently revoke the permits. Under the state rules, Macfarlane has the right to appeal the decision of the LARA officials.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
June 29, 2021 at 7:00 PM

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Offices, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 to consider a special land use at 40941 8 Mile Rd. (Meadowbrook Country Club) to construct a new maintenance facility at the west edge of the property.

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans will be available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the Northville Township Planning Commission at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168.

Tim Zawodny, Chair
Planning Commission

Publish: June 10, 2021

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CITY OF ROMULUS INVITATION TO BID
ITB 20/21-17 Romulus Public Library Interior Renovation
The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified companies for the above item/items and/or services.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit a bid must use the forms provided by the City. Official bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct (http://www.mitn.info/). Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. Copies of documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies.

(2) Clarifications, modifications, or amendments may be made to this solicitation at the discretion of the City. Any and all addenda issued by the City will be posted on the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct. All interested parties are instructed to view the MITN website regularly for any issued addenda. It is the responsibility of the bidder to obtain all issued addenda and acknowledge receipt of said addenda by including a printed copy of each addendum as part of the required documents for this solicitation and to list the addendum and sign and date the "Acknowledgment of Receipt Addenda Form: supplied in the bid documents.

(3) Please email your intent to bid to John DeMattia Construction:
jdemattia@demattiaconstruction.com John DeMattia
snaumoff@demattiaconstruction.com Scott Naumoff (cell) 248.924.8677

(4) A total of three copies (one marked "Original" and two marked "Copy") of the bid must be submitted together in one sealed package/envelope and returned to the ***City Clerk's Office*** no later than 2:00 P.M., **Thursday, 6/24/2021**. Bids should be addressed using the bid package label provided in the solicitation.

(5) The public opening of all timely received bids will be provided virtually via "Zoom" at approximately 2:30 p.m., local time **6/24/2021**. Log in information for the "Zoom" meeting can be obtained by emailing Purchasing@romulusgov.com or utilizing the information provided in the bid documents.

(6) The successful Bidder will be required to submit proof of all bonds and insurance required by the solicitation documents and copies of all required endorsements.

(7) The City reserves the right to postpone the opening without notification and also reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive any minor informality or irregularity in bids received and to award the bid in whole or in part. Ultimately, a contract may be awarded to the lowest most responsive and responsible company, as determined in the sole discretion of the City of Romulus or otherwise in a manner deemed by the City to be in its own best interest.

(8) For additional information contact Gary Harris, City of Romulus, Purchasing Director by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Purchasing@romulusgov.com.

(9) The City of Romulus strictly prohibits the reproduction or publishing of any published document or solicitation without the express written consent of the City of Romulus. Unauthorized posting of any notice of these documents or reference to said documents or solicitations is strictly prohibited.

Publish: 6/10/2021

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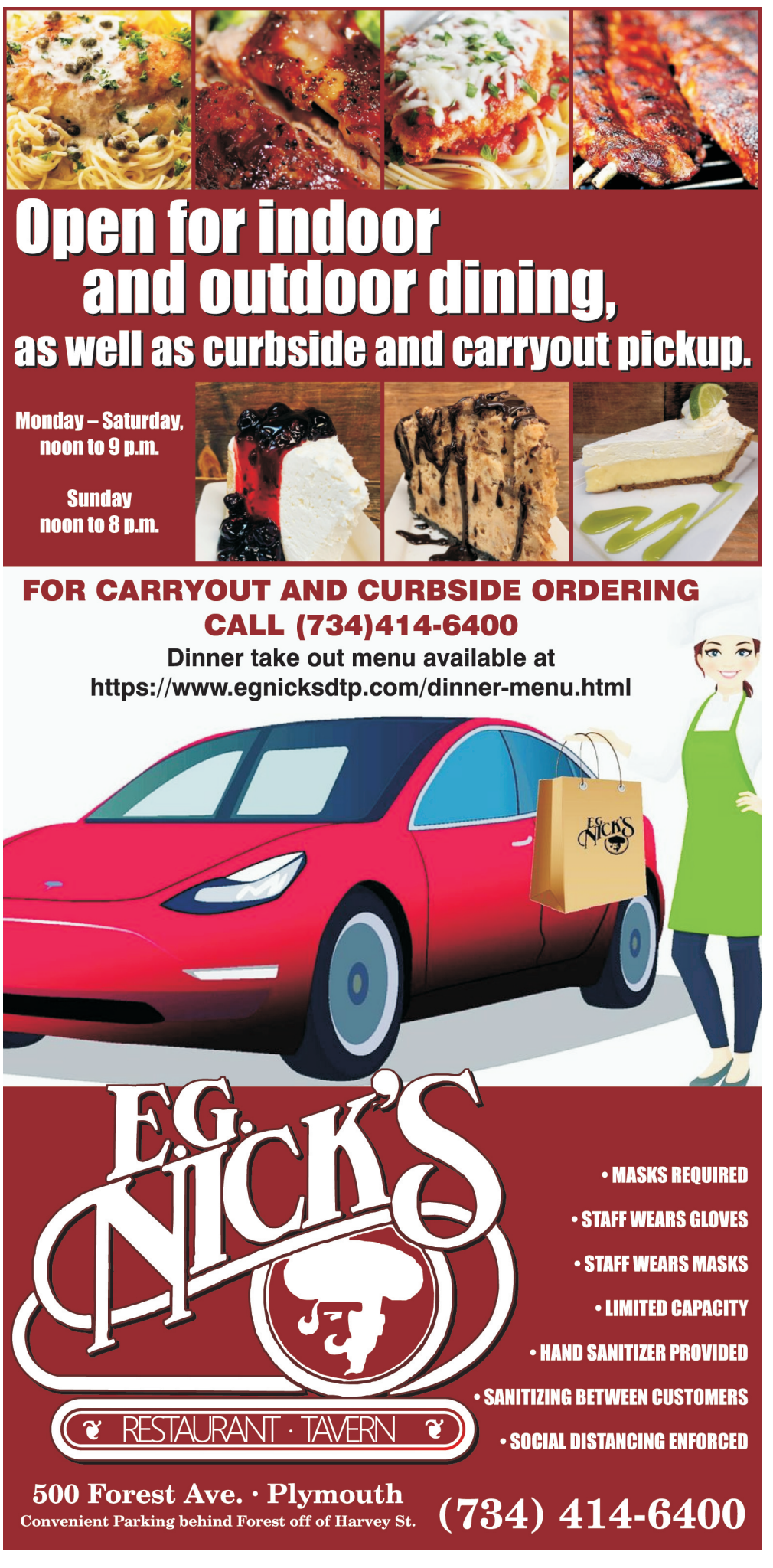

CANTON - PLYMOUTH

Village Theatre art exhibition features 'growth'

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will display the works of painter Tiera Knaff through June 28. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Knaff's exhibit, entitled "How Does Your Garden Grow?" examines how that particular question could also relate to human life. Each work in the exhibit consists of elements of self-love, growth, the desire to create from surroundings in a positive light, and the exploration of colors, officials said.

"My goal is to communicate with my audience that growth is limitless with consistency," said Knaff. "This show is to depict different ranges of growth and understanding of life. I want to create a more colorful and vivid setting that takes you away from reality, and showcases it in a more 'artificial realism'".

Knaff was born in Detroit and graduated from the Detroit School of Arts majoring in visual arts in 2011 and received a scholarship to attend College for Creative Studies. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in product design. As a child, she received visual art awards for her unique eye for color and creativity. Knaff also attended Marygrove College in Detroit where she discovered her passion for animated characters. As she grew she ventured further into the world of art to discover her own artistic identity, she said.

Known for art that is both realistic and cartoon stylized, Knaff incorporates her cartoon-like creativity with realism infused together to create a unique style combination. She said she finds inspiration from artist KAWS, cartoon programs she watched as a child, and current cartoons, such as Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon, combined with real-life experiences indulging them in a fantasy world.

Knaff continues to work predominantly in the medium of painting, preferably acrylics, as well as ballpoint pen, ink, and charcoal. Currently, she's been venturing into digital painting and has created logos/graphics for clients upon request, she added.

A variety of paintings by artist Tiera Knaff

This art exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public during gallery hours, 10 a.m. until noon Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 6-8 p.m. Thursday or by special appointment arranged via email to elli.fassois@canton-mi.org. The Gallery@VT is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, 48187. For more information, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

New assistant city manager is named in Plymouth

Plymouth Municipal Services Director Chris Porman is a busy man.

Porman has taken on additional duties in his new dual role as assistant city manager/director of municipal services.

City Manager Paul Sincock appointed Porman to the new position as part of the succession plan which was listed as a priority in the formal 5-year strategic plan adopted by the members of the city commission.

Porman has served as acting city manager on several occasions when Sincock has been out of town.

"The city is really a 25-million-dollar municipal corporation and just like any private corporation it is critical to have a clearly defined succession plan for the chief administrative officer in the event of an emergency," said Sincock. In addition to filling in for Sincock when he is out of town and being in charge of the department of municipal services, Porman will have the added responsibilities of reviewing the city overall administrative structure to determine if there are possible efficiencies or departmental consolidation or re-allocations that could lead to potential cost savings in the long term.

> *This opportunity will present some new challenges to Chris and help with his continued professional development.*

"As the city's budget continues to be squeezed by the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A, we need to be proactive in looking for additional ways to have our processes be potentially more efficient," Sincock said.

Porman earned his master's degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, as well as a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. He is active nationally in the American Public Works Association and was chosen as one of their Young Emerging Leaders in 2009. He has been a presenter at conferences and educational seminars, both nationally and internationally. The new title and emphasis on administrative structure will allow the city to broaden and enhance his administrative and supervisory skills, which is another priority in the city strategic plan, Sincock said.

In 2017 and 2018 Porman worked as a "dual" director of municipal services for both Plymouth and Northville to assist Northville during a transition period. As a part of his role, Porman wrote an extensive report on organizational observations and recommendations for the Northville Public Works Department, prior to the expiration of the temporary agreement between the two cities.

"This opportunity will present some new challenges to Chris and help with his continued professional development," said Mayor Oliver Wolcott. "We're excited to see what he can do."

Porman's appointment became effective May 24.

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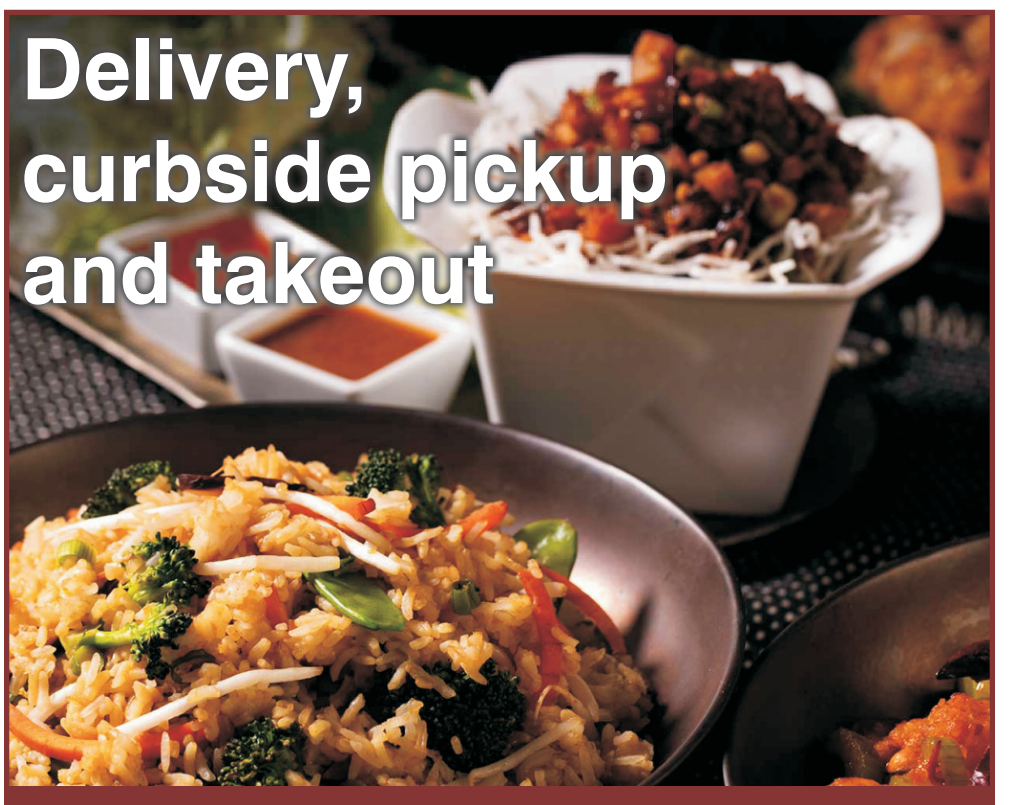

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Northville

Arts and Acts returns to downtown next week

After a one-year hiatus, the 2021 Arts and Acts Festival, presented by the Northville Art House, will return June 18 - 20 with three art fairs-Art in the Sun, Maker's Mart and Young Artist Juried Art Fair-as well as live solo and international performances at the new location along West Cady Street.

Visitors will enjoy fine art, crafts, entertainment, food, and family-friendly activities such as the annual Short on Words: A Poetry and Short Story Event and Northville Art House Chalk Festival. This year, dog owners can show off their pet's artistry in the all new Paws with Applause Northville Dog Show and Virtual Photo Contest. For festival information and updates, visit www.northvilleart house.org/artsandacts/ and @ArtsAndActsFestival on Facebook.

The free festival will take place from 4 until 8 p.m. June 18, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. June 19, and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. June 20. Venues include West Cady Street, Northville Art House, and Old Village School and Northville District Library parking lots.

The Arts and Acts Festival will follow all current COVID-19 State of Michigan and CDC guidelines with face coverings recommended for all unvaccinated visitors, organizers said. Visitors are asked to keep a safe social distance from others, avoid standing in crowded areas, and wash their hands frequently. Hand washing stations and sanitizer will be available throughout the festival.

The Art in the Sun Juried Art Fair will take place at Old Village School and Northville District Library parking lots. Art in the Sun showcases contemporary art by fine artists from Michigan and around the country competing for monetary awards based on original artwork and booth presentation.

Maker's Mart of Northville will take place on West Cady Street between Wing Street and the Old Village parking lot entrance. Maker's Mart showcases handicraft work, unique creations, and gifts by crafters from Michigan around the country.

Young Artist Juried Art Fair is planned for the Northville Art House and Northville Art House parking lot and will showcase young artists in grades 2 - 12 from Northville and Metro Detroit who sell original artwork and reproductions.

Live entertainment will include solo performers, organized by 2 Stones Events, and international groups from around Metro Detroit. From 4-7 p.m. Friday, Chris Tabaczynski - Strolling Sax will perform throughout the festival grounds; from 5 through 8 p.m. Lilly Macfee will perform pop music at the Old Village School

From 5 until 7 p.m. on Friday Downriver Dan will provide blues and rock music at the Art House grounds.

Performers on Saturday include James Hughes from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the festival grounds and Khristian Foreman from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

International performers will be at the Old Village School lot from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Kari Holmes will perform at the library parking lot.

From 10 a.m. until 1 p. m. on Sunday, Steve Wood will perform throughout the festival grounds and from 1 until 4 p.m. Terrell Williams will perform throughout the festival area. Darwin Mamassian will perform from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Old Village School lot. Mia Green will be on stage at the district library parking lot from 1 until 4 p.m.

Short on Words: A Poetry and Short Story Event is set for 7-8 p.m. Friday at the Northville Art House back yard.

Northville Art House Chalk Festival will take place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday at the Northville Art House parking lot and West Cady Street sidewalk.

The Paws with Applause Northville Dog Show is planned for 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Sunday on the Northville Art House grounds, next to the Cady Street Dog Park. There is also an ongoing Paws with Applause Virtual Photo Contest which will end at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 20. Photos, information and rules are available at www.northvillearthouse.org and www.gogophotocontest.com

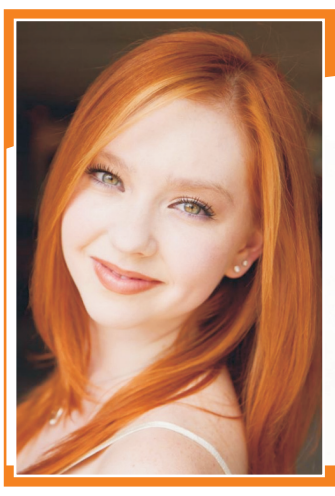
For more details about any of the contests, with entry fees and rules, contact Festival Director Erin Maten at the Northville Art House, (248) 344-0497 or email office@northvillearthouse.org

Home vaccinations available

Any homebound Northville Township or City of Northville resident 18 and older who wants to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and cannot make it to one of the Wayne County Health Department vaccine clinics may schedule an in-home vaccination. A paramedic will come to the resident's home to administer the inoculation. Household members also may register for the home vaccinations. To book an appointment Northville Township residents should call (248) 662-1222

City of Northville residents should call (248) 449-9902.

The manufacturer of the vaccine will be either Pfizer or Moderna, depending upon what the state of Michigan delivers to the Wayne County Health Department on your appointment day. The Wayne County Health Department will continue to follow CDC and FDA recommendations regarding the temporary pause of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.



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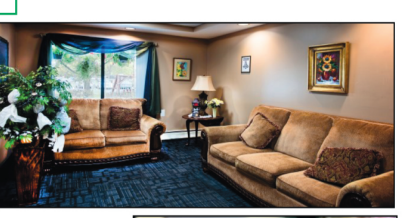

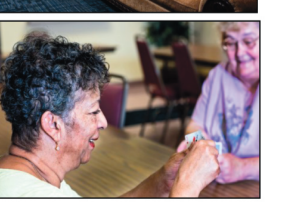

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2006 CHEVROLET
2CNDL23F966179719
2006 CHEVROLET
2G1WC581X69427978
2005 DODGE
1D7HA16D15J620475
2003 FORD
1FDRE14W43HA31220
2008 HONDA
1HGCS12818A019387
2021 JEEP
1C4RJFBG9MC549167
2008 SATURN
3GSCL33P78S696704
2006 TOYOTA
JTMZD31V665014178
2005 FORD
1FAFP34N05W211688
2006 HONDA
1HGFA16506L061129
2007 FORD
1FAFP34N17W114888
2008 DODGE
1B3HB48B88D682044
2006 DODGE
2D4FV47T16H287066
2001 FORD
1FAFP34361W256479
2015 CHEVROLET
2G1115SL0F9229078
2009 CHEVROLET
2CNDL43F796240372
2005 CHRYSLER
1C3EL46X55N664656
2001 INFINITI
JNKCA31A41T031057
2009 KAWASAKI
JKAENVC169A211259
2003 OLDSMOBILE
1G3NL52F83C266297
2004 FORD
1FMZU67K84UA69454

TAYLOR POLICE
23515 GODDARD RD.
TAYLOR MI 48180

2008 MERCURY
3MEHM08ZX8R648921
1997 FORD
1FTCR10A0VTA43406
1999 FORD
1FTRX17W2XNA47188
2003 MERCURY
1MEFM50U33G613903;
2003 FORD
1FAFP58233A186680

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2013 BUICK
1G4PR5SK4D4150137
2010 CHEV
1G1ZD5EB4AF206805
1999 CHEV
3GNEC16R7XG126765
2016 TOYT
5TFDW5F16GX497649
2007 KIA
KNDJF72367223593
2010 NISS
JN8AS5MT2AW500597
2005 SAA
YS3FB45S951061170
2014 DODGE
2C3CDXBG9EH174225
2004 HOND
5FNRL18844B145175
2007 PONT
2CKDL63F776001457

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BELLEVILLE - SUMPTER

Sumpter OKs tri-community redistricting resolution

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution to join with the City of Belleville and Van Buren Township in support of tri-community representation at the state level.

Township attorney Rob Young suggested the Sumpter Board of Trustees join the other two communities in approving a resolution to be forwarded to the state redistricting commission as state voting districts are re-evaluated. Young explained to the board that the new commission had been approved by voters and was now tasked with fairly and equitably establishing voting districts for both state senators and state representatives to eliminate gerrymandering that grants an advantage to whichever party may be in power when the districts are drawn.

Young said that the resolution explains to the commissioners that Sumpter, Van Buren and Belleville are "similar in nature and that the township officials would prefer to have one state representative and one state senator represent all three communities.

"If we have the opportunity, we would like to stick together and have one common representative," he said.

Young told the board trustees during the study session prior to the meeting that Sumpter is currently in the same district for state representation as Monroe.

> *If we have the opportunity, we would like to stick together and have one common representative.*

Trustee Don LaPorte asked Young if the township would be at a disadvantage not being a charter township.

Young responded that he felt the current township structure was "the last bastion of democracy in the country" and that he felt there was no disadvantage in the resolution.

His sentiments were shared by Trustee Tim Rush who said that becoming a charter township had been previously discussed and the he was strongly against it

"I feel it is taking the power of the people to control their own destiny away," he said. "In a charter township the board can levy a tax up to a certain mill without voter approval. To me, that is taxation without representation."

His sentiments were echoed by Trustee Peggy Morgan who had some computer issues in joining the virtual meeting May 25.

"I agree with Tim," she said. "I disagreed with becoming a charter. I never want Sumpter to become a charter township."

LaPorte said he felt the resolution would be a good thing for Sumpter and for all three communities to bond together.

Rush said recent election results across the board were similar in all three communities.

"Standard state representation would be good for the tri-communities," he said.

The board members approved the resolution unanimously in the absence of Township Clerk Esther Hurst and Treasurer James Clark.

Virtual meetings to continue

A recent outbreak of COVID-19 which shut down township hall for more than a week has prompted members of the Sumpter Board of Trustees to continue virtual meetings until July 1.

During the study session prior to the regular meeting May 25, Trustee Tim Rush asked the members of the board for their opinions regarding in-person or virtual meetings considering the recent outbreak at township hall.

"I'm sitting on the fence," he said. "The governor says everything is open, but I want to know how everybody feels about it. I've had both shots although I know you can still get the disease," he said.

Township Supervisor Tim Bowman said that he was not yet in favor of in person meetings.

"We just had an outbreak in the township that shut the whole show down," he reminded the board members. "I'd like to continue with the virtual meetings, but that is just my opinion."

Rush said he, too, was comfortable with the virtual meetings.

During the regular meeting, when the item was discussed, Trustee Peggy Morgan, who had experienced technical difficulties in participating in the meeting, said that she wanted to resume in-person meetings.

"I don't know how you all feel, but our community center and senior center are now open, people are vaccinated and they can wear masks if they choose. I think it is time to allow residents back into meetings. We do work for the residents," she said.

Bowman responded that his opinion was "totally the opposite. COVID shut the township hall down last week," he reminded Morgan.

A motion to continue requiring masks and other OSHA pandemic until July 1 when the issue will be revisited was approved by the members of the board in the absence of Clerk Esther Hurst and Treasurer James Clark.

Green thumbs

Last week, members of the Rotary Club of Belleville gathered at the Victory Park Gazebo to weed the beds and plant flowers for the summer season. The Rotary Club, with funding from the Charles B. Cozadd Foundation, has recently updated and refurbished the gazebo with new steps, hand rails, roofing and more. Club President Debra Green, center, along with Rotarians and friends who helped with the planting, are all smiles after the planting and weeding session.

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Wayne - Westland

Students complete Operation Opportunity program

Eighteen first-generation college-bound students from John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High School just completed the Operation Opportunity program. Operation Opportunity is a partnership between Michigan Medicine, Wayne-Westland Community Schools (WWCS), and Eastern Michigan University Bright Futures.

The youth mentorship program was virtual this year. However, students were still paired with mentors from Michigan Medical and learned about the variety of career paths available to them in the medical field. district officials said.

Last week the district was able to host a celebration ceremony to culminate the completion of the program. Several students shared their experiences.

Akash Patel, a senior at John Glenn High School, said, "As an immigrant from India seven years ago, I never dreamt I would have a chance to participate in a program like this." His mentor was also an immigrant, and he learned a lot from Dr. Sara Sarberi, including the existence of racial disparities in medicine.

Jillian Downey, also a senior at John Glenn High School, said Operation Opportunity was a chance for a small group of students to meet and network with different people in the medical field and see different job paths they can pursue.

> *As an immigrant from India seven years ago, I never dreamt I would have a chance to participate in a program like this.*

"We were able to build connections," she said. One of her favorite moments was meeting the OB/GYN team.

Kathryn Bigelow, a senior at John Glenn High School, said, "While participating from my living room, I loved and valued this experience. I got to talk to some great doctors and got some great life lessons."

While she enjoyed meeting with the orthopedic surgery department, she said, "My favorite was with the health information department." She will study information systems at college in the fall.

Miguel Bonam grew up with a sick grandmother who had liver cancer. Through the eyes of an elementary student, he saw the care and compassion the medical staff showed while caring for his grandmother as her illness progressed.

"What I gained from Operation Opportunity is that I, Miguel Bonam, possess the opportunity to reach my goal to become a physician's attendant," he said upon completion of the program.

Operation Opportunity gives students exposure to careers and professional contacts in the medical field, and so they know the possibilities that are available to them, school district officials said.

District schools will return to in-person classes in August

Parents of students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools received some welcome news from Superintendent of Schools John Dignan recently.

In a letter to parents, Dignan said that beginning with the fall semester of the 2021-2022 school year, the district will have in-person classes five days a week. The fall semester will begin in August this year and Dignan said there will be no hybrid programming for the upcoming scholastic year.

> *We are returning to full in-person learning at all campuses K-12), five days per week for the 2021-2022 school year.*

He said that families interested in a virtual learning option for students could contact the Wayne-Westland Virtual Academy where enrollment applications are currently being accepted.

"We are returning to full in-person learning at all campuses K-12), five days per week for the 2021-2022 school year barring any unforeseeable event," Dignan said in his letter." This is a full load for our students and families who choose to join us in in-persons learning. We will continue to practice COVID-19 safety protocols as the district moves into the new school year through the guidance of the Wayne County Health Department and other entities," he said.

All preschool programs, including young fives programming will also be open for full operations in the fall, according to Dignan. He said that more details on fall plans will become available throughout the coming weeks and months.

Westland sets upcoming post pandemic schedule of events

Last week, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced the lifting of health restrictions on outdoor events which can now proceed at 100 percent capacity. Indoor events will now be able to proceed at 50 capacity as the state has surpassed 8 million does of the COVID-19 vaccine since it became available in March.

Whitmer said that by July 1, only a few targeted guidelines to keep vulnerable populations safe would remain in effect.

"Michigan is emerging from the once-in-a-century pandemic and gearing up to jumpstart the economy. The hope that we feel today is thanks to the millions of Michiganders who have gotten vaccinated to keep themselves, their families, and communities safe," the governor said.

"The City of Westland has worked hard to distribute vaccines to our residents and we are looking forward to hosting a slate of summer events which our community has long waited for," commented Mayor William R. Wild. He added that more than 15,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in Westland.

> *The City of Westland has worked hard to distribute vaccines to our residents and we are looking forward to hosting a slate of summer events.*

In light of the easing of the health precautions, Westland will host several community events during the summer months.

The Park It "Outdoor Movie Night" community gathering is set for June 23 and the Corrado Park "Public Safety" community gathering will take place July 21. The popular Blues, Brews and BBQ event in the city will take place Aug. 6 and 7 and the Smooth Summer Nights Concert Series is scheduled for Aug. 19 and 26.

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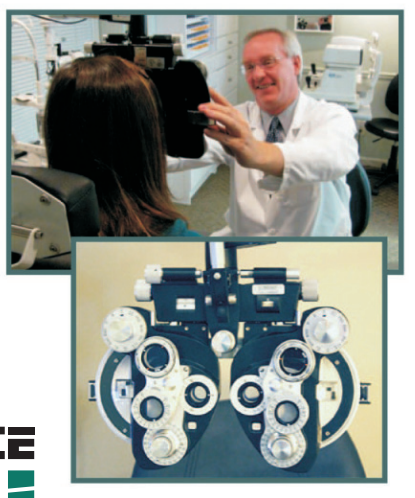

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